

Amendment and Response under 37 C.F.R. 1.116

Applicant: Jeffrey Scott Weaver

Serial No.: 10/085,713

Filed: February 28, 2002

Docket No.: 10010089-1

Title: ENABLING PRINTING FEATURES FOR AUTHORIZED USERS**BEST AVAILABLE COPY****REMARKS**

The following Remarks are made in response to the Final Office Action mailed March 10, 2006 in which claims 1-22 were rejected. With this Amendment, claims 1, 3-5, 8, 10-19, and 21-22 have been amended to clarify Applicant's invention. Claim 2 was previously cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 1 and 3-22 remain pending in the application and are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 8, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Christopher US Patent No. 5,402,528.

Claims 3-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Christopher US Patent No. 5,402,528 in view of Francis US Patent No. 6,650,430.

Claims 5-7, 19, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Christopher US Patent No. 5,402,528 in view of Mazzagatte US Patent No. 6,862,583.

Claims 9 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Christopher US Patent No. 5,402,528 in view of Mazzagatte US Patent No. 6,862,583, and further in view of Bolash US Patent No. 6,151,041.

Claims 10 and 16-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Christopher US Patent No. 5,402,528 in view of Herbert US Patent No. 6,212,505.

Claims 11-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Christopher US Patent No. 5,402,528 in view of Herbert US Patent No. 6,212,505, and further in view of Mazzagatte US Patent No. 6,862,583.

Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Christopher US Patent No. 5,402,528 in view of Lee US Patent No. 6,804,027.

With this Amendment, independent claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the method for enabling features of a printing device includes requiring authorization of a user before enabling at least one feature of the printing device; receiving authorization information of the user for use of the at least one feature of the printing device; if the user is authorized to use the at least one feature, retrieving enabling information for the at least one feature of the

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printing device; and enabling the at least one feature of the printing device using the enabling information such that the information to be printed is printed using the at least one feature.

With this Amendment, independent claim 10 has been amended to clarify that the print system includes a feature-enabling system communicated with the printing device, wherein the feature-enabling system is configured to require authorization of a user before at least one feature of the printing device is enabled; receive authorization information of the user for use of the at least one feature of the printing device; if the user is authorized to use the at least one feature, retrieve information adapted to enable the at least one feature of the printing device; and enable the at least one feature of the printing device using the information retrieved such that the information to be printed is printed using the at least one feature.

With this Amendment, independent claim 18 has been amended to clarify that the computer readable medium for use with a printing device includes logic configured to require authorization of a user before at least one feature of the printing device is enabled; receive authorization information of the user for use of the at least one feature of the printing device; if the user is authorized to use the at least one feature, retrieve information adapted to enable the at least one feature of the printing device; enable the at least one feature of the printing device using the information retrieved; and print the information to be printed using the at least one feature.

With respect to the Christopher, Francis, Mazzagatte, Bolash, Herbert, and Lee patents, Applicant submits that none of these patents, individually or in combination, teach or suggest a method for enabling features of a printing device as claimed in independent claim 1, a print system as claimed in independent claim 10, nor a computer readable medium for use with a printing device as claimed in independent claim 18.

For example, the Christopher patent discloses a hand-held labeler including optional operations including: (1) gun configuring; (2) port configuring; (3) enable/disable date; (4) limiting the label count; (5) setting the scanner type; (6) on-line downloading/uploading of data; (7) selecting a currency symbol; (8) defining cost codes; (9) defining check digits; (10) selecting prompt language; (11) gun to gun transfers; (12) storing and forwarding data; (13) format initialization; (14) enabling formats; (15) configuring formats; and (16) automatic shut off (col. 5, lines 36-51). The Christopher patent, however, does not require authorization of a

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user before the optional operations are enabled, does not receive authorization information of the user for use of the optional operations, does not, if the user is authorized to use the optional operations, retrieve information adapted to enable the optional operations, and does not enable the optional operations using the information retrieved such that information to be printed is printed using the optional operations.

In addition, the Herbert patent discloses a postage meter including reading means to read a unique identification of a printing device installed in the postage meter to determine whether the printing device is authorized for use in the postage meter, wherein the postage meter is operable to print postage indicia only if the printing device is authorized for use in the postage meter (see Abstract). The postage meter of the Herbert patent, therefore, is not enabled to print information without the printing device being enabled.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that independent claims 1, 10, and 18 are each patentably distinct from the Christopher, Francis, Mazzagatte, Bolash, Herbert, and Lee patents and, therefore, are each in a condition for allowance. Furthermore, as dependent claims 3-9 and 22 further define patentably distinct claim 1, dependent claims 11-17 further define patentably distinct claim 10, and dependent claims 19-21 further define patentably distinct claim 18, Applicant submits that these dependent claims are also in a condition for allowance. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1-22 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn, and that claims 1 and 3-22 be allowed.

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In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 1 and 3-22 are all in a condition for allowance and requests reconsideration of the application and allowance of all pending claims.

Any inquiry regarding this Amendment and Response should be directed to either Nathan Rieth at Telephone No. (208) 396-5287, Facsimile No. (208) 396-3958 or Scott A. Lund at Telephone No. (612) 573-2006, Facsimile No. (612) 573-2005. In addition, all correspondence should continue to be directed to the following address:

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Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper or papers, as described herein, are being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Fax No. (571) 273-8300 on this 2ND day of May, 2006.

By 
Name: Scott A. Lund